

## Adult Education

### Can We Offer More?

Our tradition teaches that the study of Torah is a *mitzvah*. It's so great a *mitzvah* that it alone equals all of the other *mitzvot*. At CSZ our concept of Torah is broad enough to include all forms of education about ourselves and the world around us. One can easily see that adult education is important for us as Jews, and is an important part of our synagogue life.

Your Education Committee needs members who are interested in participating. Our task is to continue the development of an adult education program which meets the needs expressed in the congregation's Long-Range Plan. There are many ways to enrich our lives—one way is through ongoing learning in the classroom or as part of a lecture, seminar, or workshop.

Your participation is vital. Help us choose the classroom subjects and select teachers; help us develop other educational activities, such as lectures and workshops; help us enhance our members' lives.

If you have an interest in adult education and would like to lend your creative support, plan to attend the next meeting on May 18, 7:30 pm, in the library. Please let us know if you are coming; call the office or Don Albert (641-5113).

### Brunch for People with HIV

CSZ members living with HIV are invited to brunch with Rabbi Yoel Kahn on Saturday, June 6, 10:30 am until 1 pm. If you are living with or are the partner of a person with HIV or AIDS, please join us for a morning of food, company, prayer, and song. An informal, supportive discussion will follow the brunch. To make a reservation and for directions to the location, please call Jim at the office.

## Birthdays Mean Music for CSZ

Sha'ar Zahav will enjoy a year or more of musical enhancement, thanks to the generosity of members David Stein and Daniel Chesir. They are both turning 50 this year (we *know* they don't look a day over 49!) on May 18 and June 10 respectively. In honor of the occasion, David and Daniel have made generous gifts to the synagogue, establishing a fund to enhance the musical aspects of our worship and

communal life. We will inaugurate our new ongoing music program and celebrate with them at Shabbat morning services on Saturday, May 30. The congregation is invited to share in this *simcha* by attending this service and oneg. In addition, contributions to the Stein/Chesir Music Enhancement Fund can be sent to the office. For more information, see the Va'ad Report on page 7.



Purim party faces. For more photos and a wrap up of this year's party, see page 4.

PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BETTINGER

## Women's Chavurah Shabbat Dinner

The Women's Chavurah will hold its monthly Shabbat dinner on Friday, May 22, at 6:30 pm, prior to services. Treat yourself to a delicious catered meal at the end of a hectic week, and shmooze with lots of other CSZ women, in the friendly and informal setting of the synagogue library.

The first dinner was a huge success and what a crowd we had at services!

We plan to hold these dinners on the fourth Friday of every month, so add these gatherings to your social calendar now.

Please RSVP to Audrey Adelson (510/849-3021) by Wednesday, May 20, and indicate meat or vegetarian meal. The cost of dinner is \$10.50 per person. Children attending services with their mothers are welcome.



## Cancer in Two Voices

I am honored to devote my column this month to three members of Sha'ar Zahav. Barbara Rosenblum and Sandy Butler co-authored *Cancer in Two Voices*, the moving account of their life together after Barbara was diagnosed with breast cancer. Barbara, may her memory be for blessing, died in 1988. As they had agreed, Sandy completed the book and it was published last year by Spinsters. CSZ member Cheryl Mann wrote the following review, from her perspective as the partner of a woman living with cancer.

*Cancer in Two Voices* by Barbara Rosenblum and Sandra Butler is a wonderful book in which a patient (Barbara) and her longtime partner (Sandra) share their experiences of living with cancer. Unlike most other books about life-threatening illnesses, this book is written from both the loving partner's and the patient's perspectives and has had particular significance for me because my life partner, Bree, was diagnosed with breast cancer last year at the age of 27.

I highly recommend *Cancer in Two Voices* to the partner of any person dealing with any life-threatening disease because this book recognizes the rewards as well as the challenges of caring for an ill loved one. As CSZ member and co-author Sandra Butler points out, both the women and the men of our congregation are facing their own epidemics—breast cancer and AIDS. As the book suggests, we need to support each other by sharing our knowledge about these diseases, our coping methods, and the ways in which we celebrate our lives on a daily basis.

Since Bree was diagnosed, we have experienced events and emotions much like those described in the book. Like Barbara and Sandra, we chose to openly share our feelings with friends and family about the diagnosis, the mastectomy and the treatments. Also like us, Barbara and Sandra received a great deal of support from the community, which is extremely important for cancer patients and their partners. In particular, I strongly identified with Sandra's descriptions of her everchanging emotions: being angry at the cancer and wanting to protect her partner from further sickness; being grateful for the time she and Barbara had together; feeling completely

helpless while her partner was undergoing tests, surgery and chemotherapy treatments; and wanting to take care of Barbara when she was ill, while at the same time accepting help from others. Reading Barbara's journal entries in *Cancer in Two Voices* also helped me to more clearly understand the fears that Bree has experienced since the time of her diagnosis—that the cancer will spread and her body will not be able to fight it, of the inevitable pain and sickness created by surgeries and treatment, of possible recurrence after treatment, of death, and of not living because the fear of death is so great.

The strength with which Barbara faced her cancer was truly courageous. Barbara shared her experiences with others because she knew that she would probably only be the first in her circle of friends to experience breast cancer. (Statistics show that one out of every nine women will be diagnosed with breast cancer during her lifetime.)

*Cancer in Two Voices* addresses an interesting concept that is related to most life-threatening diseases—that a disease "belongs" only to the patient. No matter how much the partner is involved in the process, she or he cannot completely understand all of the feelings that go along with the disease. From their different perspectives, Sandra and Barbara each shared their thoughts on this issue with great tenderness. For example, Barbara described the very painful and disfiguring physical changes she experienced as a result of surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Sandra described the guilt and disloyalty she felt because her body was healthy and had not been traumatized like Barbara's. At the same time, however, Sandra emphasized that even though Barbara's body had changed, she was still the same person whom Sandra had always loved.

More than anything else, *Cancer in Two Voices* is about the celebration of life. Similar to other life-threatening diseases that force people to confront their own mortality, cancer is a disease that grants people "permission" or courage to do the things they might not otherwise do. Like Barbara and Sandra, Bree and I have used our experience with breast cancer to reprioritize many aspects of our lives. We are now much

more appreciative of the joys that life brings us each day and have made the decision to start doing the things we have always wanted to do *today*. For example, like Sandra and Barbara, Bree and I decided to finally plan the ceremony (that we had previously postponed for trivial reasons) celebrating our relationship and the life we have created together.

Most importantly, *Cancer in Two Voices* challenges each of us to remember, whether or not we are faced with a life-threatening illness, that "Your life is not a rehearsal ... it is what it is and you must live it ... do it all ... do it now ... live your dreams."

—Cheryl Mann

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Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, Richard Inlander, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Howard Goldberg, Alex Ingersoll, Merry Luskin, Sam Thal, Eli Weinstein, Sylvia Weisenberg, Donna Rabinowitz, and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

**Display Ads** are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

**Classified Ads** are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.



## A Family Gathering

The word "family" brings up a variety of emotions for most of us. Whether gay or non-gay, all of us have grown up having to deal with parents and siblings who impose their expectations and demands on us. No family is immune from some dysfunction, and none of us escapes from the task of learning to separate from our families of origin and develop our own identities and standards. This process can range from being relatively smooth and supportive to wrenchingly painful. For many gay and lesbian Jews, "family" is often a land mine of conflicting feelings, of loyalty and rejection, of high expectation for conformity and rugged individualism. When we are called to a "family gathering," many of these conflicts that we can usually ignore are starkly illuminated. "Can I bring my lover? How will I answer those questions: 'you're so bright/handsome/beautiful/accomplished—why aren't you married? Where are my grandchildren? Mrs. Schwartz has a lovely son/daughter; won't you meet him/her?' What shall I say about my social life, my health, my friends?" It is often easier to avoid such gatherings.

I have often likened our synagogue to a growing individual. It can easily be viewed as a family as well. At times in our 15 year history, the synagogue has experienced dynamics similar to those in families. Leaders have been seen as parents to challenge and reject. Brothers and sisters have quarreled. Some have left the family fold. But like many healthy families, we have figured out how to work together—providing mutual support in times of need, learning how to present our points of view in productive and not hurtful ways, and overcoming our selfishness in order to enhance the common good. And to continue the metaphor, once a year we have a family gathering.

Sometimes these gatherings have been difficult and acrimonious, but they are never times when we have to hide ourselves. In recent years, we have been able to tackle difficult issues and arrive at decisions that might not have pleased everyone, but decisions that we have all accepted. We have conducted ourselves with mutual respect and caring, allowing each of us our individuality and the chance to express it. This year our Con-

gregational Meeting is Sunday, May 17. When you receive your mailing and your election packet, don't automatically decide that you have something better to do that afternoon—this is our family gathering. But just as at the traditional family gathering, where it's not the idle chatter or the catching up or the business transactions or the networking that are important, at our meeting it's not the reports and the elections and the votes that really matter. What is crucial is simply your presence as part of the family. Perhaps the best thing about a family gathering is the unconscious sense that you belong to something larger than yourself—something that was there before you were and will continue long after you are gone. The same is true of Sha'ar Zahav. It is a time to celebrate our continued thriving, to review the accomplishments of the past year, to

entrust ourselves to new leaders for the coming year, and to see "long-lost relatives" and meet our new "cousins." Unlike a Chanukah or Purim party, or even the High Holidays or Friday nights, the Congregational Meeting is a time to recognize ourselves as a living and growing organization, at time to acknowledge ourselves for our hard work and generous volunteerism, and to make a pledge of faith that our synagogue will be here for us and we for it in the coming year. I very much hope to see you at our "family gathering."

### Yizkor Elohim

We mourn the recent death of our member, Robert Coffman, February 18, 1946–March 20, 1992.

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## Congregation Goes Groggers over Megillah Madness

Nearly 200 revelers celebrated Purim at Megillah Madness at the Unitarian Center on Saturday, March 21. Garlands galore, balloons in abundance, showers of confetti and multicolored lights dazzled the costume-clad crowd and introduced them to an evening of pomp and pageantry in what was fondly dubbed the "Brenda Starr King Room."

The festivities began with spirits soaring to the beat of Israeli dancing. We mingled and schmoozed over Middle Eastern delicacies that included hummus and pita bread, *dolmas* (stuffed grape leaves), fruits and veggies, egg salad, olives, dates, nuts, and sesame treats—topped off by a creative array of freshly baked *hamentashen* for dessert.

We feasted our eyes on the bedecked and bedazzling—many of whom were "dressed to kill" and wearing costumes "to die for." There were plenty of Esthers, Hamans and Ahashveroses parading side-by-side with a blond Elvis, Shushan tourists Stella and Mavis, a Kuluk-size frog and a variety of "chic sheik." Upbeat dance music, Esther's Beauty Bazaar and Polaroids from the Purim Portrait Studio kept the merriment alive throughout the evening.

But (dayenu), as if this weren't enough ... the *pièce de résistance* amid the glitz and glitter was "Fried Green Hamentashen: A Story of Coming Out, Political Intrigue and Cheerleading"—an original, authentic, "you-are-there" retelling of the Megillah of Esther that featured an alluringly quintessential "Sylvester" ("I will be queen!") and a host of familiar characters performing at their "personal best."

Those who were there will never forget Manicurist Madge's seductive storytelling, ex-Queen Vashti's lip-synching virtuosity, Dottie Sue's

technically perfect cheerleading ... not to mention the evil Haman (tall on malevolence), Uncle Mordechai (such a stretch) and the eloquent emcee (such an actress—how did she learn that accent?) ... plus the beguiling belly dancer, the stately king, the luscious maitre d', the inspired news commentator, the "lovelies" who competed in the Shushan beauty pageant, the guards, back-up



Michael Bettinger as subject, rather than photographer. PHOTO BY ANDY ESTRIN

singers and (beyond our wildest expectations) Madge's customer whose surprise identity in the final scene brought down the house.

Hats off to Todd Walker for the magnificent sets and costumes, Randy Schiller and the light and sound technicians, the food providers, the dynamic crew under Richard Shoemaker who

transformed the room to Fifth Century B.C.E. Persia and, of course, to the "angels" who stayed late to clean up.

Extraordinary talent went into planning and producing Megillah Madness. With a multitude of people to thank, we hope we have not overlooked anyone. We are grateful to all who contributed and attended, helping to make this year's Purim party an unmitigated success.

We'd like to extend special recognition to the following:

### *Fried Green Hamentashen*

Scriptwriters—Yehuda Hyman and Nathan Robinson

Newscast—Jonathan Goldman

Cheers—Carolyn Pines

### *Cast of Characters*

(in order of appearance)

Madge—Ivan Vincente

Emcee—Shirley Liberman

Vashti—Lisa Katz

Back-up Singers—Tiela Chalmers, Sharon

Heath, Ora Prochovnik

Guards—Alison Cohen, Matthew Levine

Haman—Mark Pressler

Dottie Sue—Judy Schwartz

Mordechai—Daniel Chesir

Sylvester/Esther—Lane Schickler

### *Pageant Contestants*

Melanie, Ms. Tigris—Irene Ogus

Sheba, Ms. Nile Delta—Rosalinda Del Morales

Veronica, Ms. Indus Valley—Yehuda Hyman

Babaganoosh, Ms. Euphrates—Allan Gold

King—Mark Taubman

Maitre d'—Allan Gold

Haman's Flunkey—Todd Walker

Newscaster—Jonathan Goldman

Belly Dancer—Nikki Bengal

Madge's Customer—Rabbi Yoel Kahn

### *Set Design, Costume, Make-Up*

Todd Walker

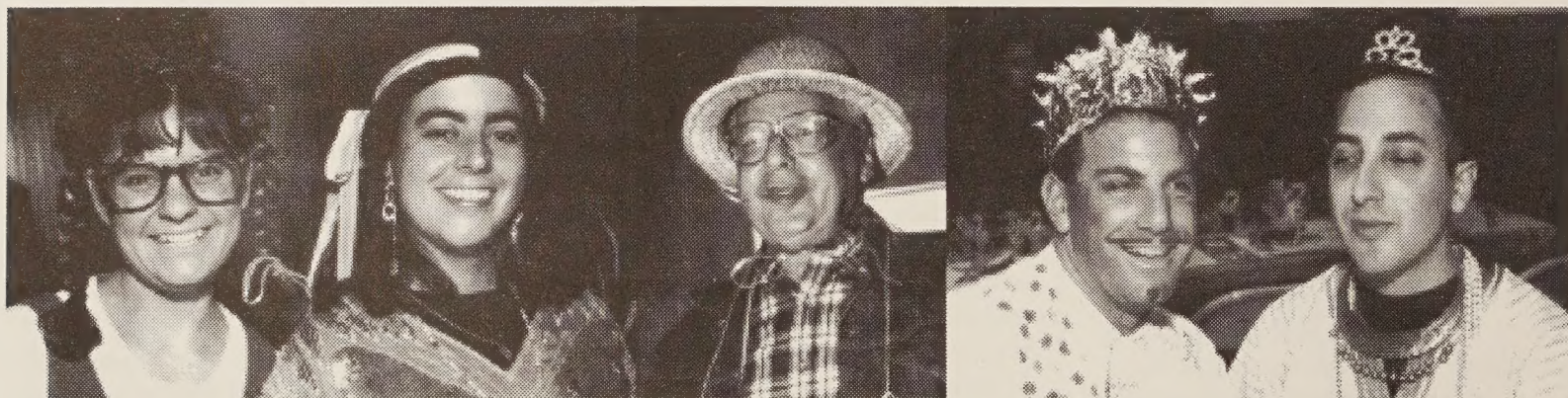
### *Sound, Lights, DJ*

Randall Schiller Music Production

### *Follow-Spot Operators*

Arthur Brendze, Rob Tat

*Continued on next page*



This year's Purim party revelry. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL BETTINGER



## Madness

*Continued from previous page*  
*Videotaping*

Philip Charney

*Sound-Cue Facilities*

Sarah Comerchero

*Room Concept/Decorations*

Richard A.R. Shoemaker (RARS)

*Prize Coordinator*

Marc Mencher

*Set-Up Crew*

Forrest Kincade, Paul Nemrow, RARS,

David Rosen, the Cast

*Hamentashen Bake-Off*

*Entrants and Entries*

Winner: Donna Rabinowitz—Hamentashen from Hell

Nikki Bengal—Sugar-Free Yet Seditious Hamentashen

Paul Cohen—Mama Leah's Hamentashen

Nancy Facher—Opiates for the Mass-ticators

Jonathan Goldman—Exotic, Erotic Hamentashen Delight

Tova Green—Unfried Green Hamentashen

Yoel Kahn—"Get Off My Case, It's Been a Busy Week" Hamentashen

Aziza Khazzoom—Iraqi Delicacy

Carolyn Pines—Purim Petit-Threes

Sylvia Weisenberg—Black Raspberry

Surprise and the Original Fried Green Hamentashen

*Hamentashen Judges*

Steve Elman, Robin Leonard, Susan Unger

*Costume Competition Winners*

Jacob Robinson and Bart Shulman as the King and Esther

*Costume Judges*

Ida Kuluk, Larry Wexler

*Folk Dance Leaders*

Scott Mezistrano, Nathan Robinson

*Door-Prize Winner*

Robin Leonard

*Photographers*

Michael Bettinger, Andy Estrin

*Ticket Takers*

Audrey Adelson, Forrest Kincade, David Rosen

*Public Relations*

Sharyn Saslafsky

*Child Care Arrangements*

Emily Tincher

*Food Donations*

Audrey Adelson, Steve Elman, Laureen

Kim and Alan Michels, Carolyn Pines

and Judy Schwartz, Donna Rabinowitz

*Food Set-Up*

Audrey Adelson, Lisa Brand, Shirley

Liberman, Carolyn Pines, Mark Pressler,

Donna Rabinowitz, David Rosen, Judy

Schwartz

*Clean-Up Crew*

Audrey Adelson, Nikki Bengal, Alison

Cohen, Steve Elman, Allan Gold, Tom

Holt, Carolyn Pines, Nathan Robinson,

Judy Schwartz



*Fried Green Hamentashen (l. to r.) Rosalinda del Moral, half of Matthew Levine, Irene Ogus, Lane Schickler, half of Yehuda Hyman, Allan Gold, Judy Schwartz, Alison Cohen.*

PHOTO BY MICHAEL BETTINGER

### *Special Thanks*

Fong Brothers Printing Inc. for printing the souvenir brochures

Market Street Gym for the free one-month membership as the prize for best hamentashen

Ma Tante Sumi Restaurant for a dinner for two as the prize for best costume

David Lester of Mouse Type Inc. for designing the Purim flyer and *Forward* graphics

Umboko International (3350 20th St., San Francisco) for lending us the Burmese Temple Gong

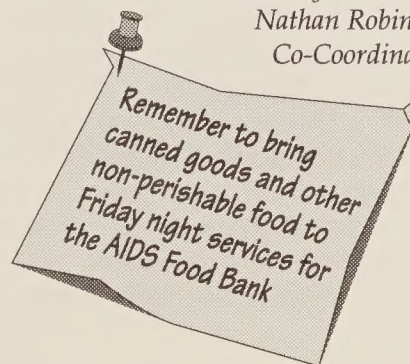
### *Special Help, Advice, and Readiness to Serve*

Howard Blechman, Lisa Brand, Shelley Eisenman, Meredith Florian, Roslyn Fuerman, the Kitchen Sink, Merry Luskin, Julie Moed, Leslie Peller, Jeff Rubin, Kate Sharp, Lisa Szer; and especially Jim Cotant and Mark Pressler in the CSZ office, Rabbi Kahn, the Va'ad and the synagogue leaders for all their support and enthusiasm.

### *Most Important*

To our audience for coming and for your patience and support as we searched for the fuse box!

—Carolyn Pines and  
Nathan Robinson,  
Co-Coordinators



## Jewish Women Don't Hike!

Or do they? Come and find out when the Women's Chavurah hits the trail on Sunday, May 31. Designed to meet the needs of the most to the least enthusiastic hiker, we'll meet at noon at the Marin Headlands information center parking lot. After a short hike to an idyllic picnic spot for lunch, the hikers will hike and the shmoozers will shmooze—or snooze.

Bring a picnic lunch and beverage. To get to the information center, take the first exit on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge and follow Conzelman Road all the way to the center. Call Susan (510/482-3740) if you need more explicit directions.

## Jewish Singles Don't Hike!

Or do they? CSZ singles will hold a hike/picnic at Redwood Regional Park in the East Bay on Saturday, May 30 at 10:30 am. Those less athletic/macho souls who prefer not to hike are invited to bring games/toys and enjoy the rustic setting (while holding the picnic tables for the hikers). Come and bring friends! Call Donna (752-8951), Phil (510/537-9152), or the office for details, directions, rides, etc.

—Phil Charney



## Volunteer of the Month

### Larry Wexler

This month's honoree is driven by his self-described "spiritual appetite that has to be filled." He has affiliated with synagogues on both coasts, attempting to sate that appetite. While doing so, he has always given of his time to ensure that the experience of his fellow congregants is also enhanced.

Born in New York City and raised in Syosset, Long Island, his was one of the first families in a "High Reform" synagogue where he attended Sunday school through the



Larry Wexler

12th grade. In addition to his bar mitzvah, he was confirmed at age 16, which he considered more of an adult affirmation of his commitment to learning.

While majoring in American Civilization (as well as studying Russian) at Lafayette College in eastern Pennsylvania, he joined the Hillel. It was there that he came in contact with other than Reform practice. "I got used to it and started to like it ... although I was the first and probably last Reform religious chairman" at that Hillel. After graduation Larry spent a rewarding summer as a counselor at a UAHC summer camp.

After a stint working with the house orchestra of, among others, Leonard's of Great Neck (a famous Long Island catering hall), he found himself drawing on his fraternity food service experience and took a position in management at a Woolco coffee shop and later for a Burger King franchise. It was while working for a 7-Eleven, after his Burger King years, that Larry finally got Friday nights off and could attend services more regularly—this time at the Jewish Center of the Hamptons. The last two years in the Hamptons he served as oneg chair and "shamas."

Larry went to computer school to study data processing and programming and then moved to California. He finally landed a position at Pacific Bell and has been with them ever since.

He attended services at synagogues in Los Gatos while living there and got involved at Temple Sinai in Oakland,

where he still attends Saturday services regularly. However, it was after joining CSZ in 1988 that Larry found "a place which links the two communities (gay and Jewish) that are important to me." Larry feels that there should be no conflict between Torah and homosexuality. "God created us and I don't believe God makes mistakes. The men who wrote down the Torah may have. There is room for new interpretations. Why should Judaism not continue to evolve?"

Larry also feels that while some new attendees at CSZ are proactive in getting involved, most need to be approached. He has done both; Larry credits his comfort at CSZ to early approaches by veteran members Irene Ogus, Paul Cohen and Gary Koenigsberg. He also attended a spirituality class taught by the Rabbi. This led to his being asked to head a spirituality chavurah and eventually becoming chair of the Ritual Committee in 1990.

His experience with so many congregations is a strong asset in this role and gives him a good perspective that "there are many ways to pray and be spiritual." He has tried to make the committee more of a learning place for its members and, in turn, for the congregation. He stresses that the committee is the spiritual backbone for the congregation and is proud of its chief role in guiding the congregation in ritual matters and staffing lay-led Friday night, Shabbat morning, festival and High Holiday services.

Though stepping down as chair in the next few months, he will continue as a member of the Ritual Committee. He is also on the Membership Committee and has done one-time projects such as co-coordinating our Gay Freedom Day Parade booth and contingent. These experiences "have been rewarding and have given me a strong, heartwarming way to contribute and be a part of this congregation." One of Larry's first impressions at CSZ was how all participated at services—"everyone sang." Through his efforts over the last years, we too have been able to continue to fill our spiritual appetites.

—Lane Schickler

## Oneg Sponsors

These generous people were recent sponsors of onegs:

- 3/28 Sherie Koshover, in loving memory of Isabelle Fishman and in celebration of her 95th birthday
- 4/3 Howard Blechman, in memory of his lover, Ron Gertz

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. For cosponsoring—in honor of a member's birthday or anniversary—the cost is only \$10.

## Naches

To **Pam Schaffer** on being accepted to rabbinical school.

To **Ron Lezell** on purchasing his new home.

To **Lisa Katz and Sharon Heath** on purchasing their new home.

To **Pam Waterstone and Robin Lowey** on Robin's legal adoption of their son, Maxwell Lowey Waterstone.

To **Cherie Pies** who was awarded a Northern California Phi Beta Kappa scholarship and a fellowship from UC Berkeley to continue her doctoral work in reproductive health and ethics.

To **Susan Unger and Pam Erwin** on purchasing their new home.

To **Allyce Kimerling** on purchasing her new home.

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## April Va'ad Report

Rabbi Kahn opened the meeting with some thoughts on Passover. It is a natural time, he said, to consider the ways in which he feels liberated and the ways he feels oppressed—usually, in connection to being gay and being Jewish. But he also noted his own occasional questioning of why we go through the trouble of all of the work connected with Passover, when on some level we know that the world will still be full of injustices and oppressions after our seders. (We might experience a similar feeling on Yom Kippur—as much as we reflect on our lives on that day and resolve to change, on some level we know that we will still have our basic weaknesses at the end of the day.) Despite this, seders allow us to get re-inspired and recommitted. Passover, like Judaism in general, provides a path for us both to get more in touch with the joy of liberation, and also to heighten our consciousness of oppression in the world. If seders heighten awareness in this way and move us to action, they do have an impact on the world.

Treasurer Brett Trueman reported that 112 congregants are in arrears in payment of the building assessment. Including those who have not yet paid the assessment for 1992, a sum of \$12,000 is unpaid. The Finance Committee, involved with working on the payment and structure of dues, currently doesn't have the resources to work on collecting this money. The Va'ad agreed to urge congregants to get current by informing them of the history of and reasons for the building assessment. To this end, President Allan Gold planned to discuss the issue in an upcoming *Forward*.

In its ongoing discussions of next year's budget, the Va'ad discussed policy concerning paying airfare and housing costs to send delegates to conferences of the UAHC and WCGLJO (World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations). Va'ad members were of two minds on this issue—on the one hand, most everyone felt that we do not want to preclude people from serving as our representatives to these conferences on the basis of their ability to pay; on the other hand, conference costs can be quite high, especially in years like the upcoming one, in which the WCGLJO is held abroad. Next year's situation is somewhat different from the

norm—several CSZ members are already planning to go to the London conference and then proceed on to Israel on our congregational trip. After discussion of various policy positions, including differentiating between subsidies for domestic and international conferences and providing easy avenues for potential delegates to request subsidies, the Va'ad voted to budget nothing for travel expenses for this year, but to revisit the issue in the future.

The Va'ad unanimously applauded Nathan Robinson and Carolyn Pines for their work in organizing Megillah Madness. Nathan reported on the evening: between 150 to 200 people attended and, no doubt, are still wowed by the stunning performances of the cast members. Rumor has it that CSZ will strike up a "Drama Chavurah." Nathan brought up several issues which deserve ongoing attention of the Va'ad: How to recruit more volunteers; the balance between keeping ticket prices accessible and making (or not losing) money; preventing volunteer burn-out. Most of all, Nathan was gratified by the dedication of the cast members and other volunteers, and felt that everyone involved had lots of fun.

In other committee business, Membership Chair Judy Schwartz presented two individuals and one family for membership to the congregation, and they were accepted.

Allan Gold announced that in honor of their 50th birthdays, Daniel Chesir and David Stein have offered to donate money towards the hiring of a music consultant for the coming year. This person would consult with and teach new music to the ritual committee, revitalize the ensemble, and work with the choir at High Holidays. A suspense fund will be created for the salary costs, and anyone can contribute to that fund in honor of Daniel and David. Rabbi Kahn, Daniel Chesir and Tova Green will interview prospective musicians for this position.

Vice President Claudia Bernard noted that Robert Alton Harris is scheduled to be executed by the State of California on April 21 at 3 am, and announced that several religious organizations are holding a vigil protesting the execution (and the death penalty). She suggested that the Va'ad authorize the use of the Social Action Mailing list to invite CSZ members to come to the vigil.

The Va'ad discussed this suggestion at length, examining such issues as whether the Va'ad should endorse this event and thereby take a stand on the death penalty, or should merely inform people of the vigil; and whether or not taking a stand on the death penalty is within the Va'ad's mandate. We also touched briefly on how our understanding of Judaism informs our opinions on the death penalty. Many Va'ad members

*Continued on page 9*



Women's Chavurah takes to the bowling lanes; (back row) Malia Lewis, Amy Neches, Robin Leonard, Sarah Michaels, Charlene Nason, Shelley Spiro, Gabriele Kassner, Ann Biderman, Alita Rosenfeld, Susan Unger; (front row) Margot Damasar, Sylvia Weisenberg, Lee Ryan, Pam Erwin, Susan Tubbesing. PHOTO BY SARA NATHE



## Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

### General Fund

*We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular, since such donations can be used for any synagogue purpose.*

**Harold Stoll**, in memory of Isabelle Fishman

**Ann Biderman**, in honor of Susan Tubbesing, for her hard work as chair of the Women's Chavurah

**Charles Norton**, in memory of Isabelle Fishman

**Stephanie Hannaford**

**Ann Biderman**, in honor of Ellyn's completion of her first year of graduate school

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of Isabelle Fishman

**Steve Elman and Tom Holt**, in memory of Thelma Schwartz

**Gordon Phillips**, in memory of Adam Phillips

**Jon Funk and John Arnold**, in memory of Isabelle Fishman

**David Stein and Alex Ingersoll**, in memory of Isabelle Fishman

**Jon Funk**, in honor of John Arnold's birthday

**David Stein and Alex Ingersoll**, in honor of Bob Gutterman's 40th birthday

**Allan Berenstein**, in memory of his grandfather, Max Radetsky

**Gerry Rosenstein**, in honor of Bob Gutterman's 40th birthday

### AIDS Fund

**Tom Yazman**, in memory of Vincent Slama

**Harold Podgur**, in memory of Thom Young

### Prayerbook Fund

**Ruth Dick**, in honor of her daughter, Irene

**Jonathan Funk and Jon Arnold**, in memory of Dimitri Moifetas

### Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

**Yehuda Hyman**

**Francie Hornstein and Ellen Peskin**, in honor of Jessie Peskin-Hornstein's bar mitzvah

## Calling All College Students

Are you an undergraduate or the parent of a college student? The Union of American Hebrew Congregations publishes a newsletter for Reform Jewish college students and sponsors a variety of programs for credit—from home hospitality to summer institutes. If you would like to get on the mailing list or put your child on the mailing list, please call Jim at the office with the student's school year and permanent address.

## New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained the following new members in April. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

**Jeffrey Lilly**

**Mark and Todd Taubman-Walker**

**Laura Lowe**

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

## Hills of Eternity Memorial Park

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of our faith. A site chosen for its natural beauty, enhanced by meticulous care. Visit our beautiful new niche section.

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*Sessions are filling fast — register today!*





## Birthdays

2	Rena Frantz
3	Marion Trentman
4	Eileen Dunn
4	Jeffrey Rubin
7	Dianne Hawk
7	Tom Steel
8	Shelley Samuels
8	Stephanie Hannaford
9	Sherry Sporn
15	Arnie Jackson
16	Edward Tanovitz
18	Jane Graeven
18	David Stein
18	Carol Cohen
20	Richard Wilson
21	Gerald Rosenstein
21	Lolma Olson
22	Janis Medina
22	Marilyn Brown
23	Suzanne Shimek
24	David Custead
26	Sylvia Weisenberg
26	Robert Katz
27	Nancy Epstein
28	Sherie Koshover
29	Eric Cooper-Keitel
30	Shelley Eisenman



## Va'ad Report

*Continued from page 7*

felt that this discussion was out of our range—we were not elected to the Va'ad on the basis of our positions on the death penalty; others felt that the mission statement of the synagogue and premises of Judaism (both urging the search for justice) demand that we take a stand on just such issues. Unable to reach a consensus on the Va'ad's endorsing the vigil, the Va'ad decided to bring the matter to the attention of the Social Action Committee, who along with Rabbi Kahn, would send a letter to members of our congregation inviting them to the vigil.

Our meeting was adjourned with the singing of Oseh Shalom, and a brief closed session.

—Kathy Simon, Recorder

## Condolences

To **Rose Katz** on the death of her father, Marvin Katz

## Synagogue Information

**Rabbi Yoel Kahn** (861-6932)

### Officers:

*President*, Allan Gold (929-9524)  
*Administrative Vice President*,  
 Claudia Bernard  
*Program Vice President*,  
 Tiela Chalmers  
*Treasurer*, Brett Trueman  
*Recorder*, Kathy Simon

### Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Charney  
 Daniel Chesir  
 Steve Elman  
 Gail Friedlander  
 Lisa Katz  
 Ida Kuluk  
 Nathan Robinson  
 Judy Schwartz  
 Susan Unger

### Office Personnel:

*Manager*, Mark Pressler  
*Secretary*, Jim Cotant

### Committee Chairs:

*Archivist*, open  
*Bequests and Donations*, Pam Schaffer  
*Bikkur Cholim*, by committee  
*Brotherhood*, Phil Charney  
*Building*, Ellen Gierson  
*Bylaws*, Edward Pollock  
*Cemetery*, Richard Inlander  
*Children's Chavurah*, Audrey Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz  
*Cookbook Project*, Robin Leonard  
*Dues*, David Stein & Ron Lezell

*Education*, Don Albert (acting)  
*Finance*, Pam Schaffer  
*Gift Shop*, Jeff Rubin  
*Israel Chavurah*, Ron Lezell  
*Long-Range Planning*, Tiela Chalmers  
*Membership*, Judy Schwartz  
*Newsletter*, by committee  
*Oneg*, Donna Rabinowitz  
*Past Presidents Council*, Don Albert  
*Personnel*, Claudia Bernard  
*Public Relations*, Sharyn Saslatsky  
*Religious School*, Mary Morgan  
*Ritual*, Larry Wexler  
*Social Action*, Susan Foster  
*Social Program*, by committee  
*Volunteer Coordinator*, Robin Leonard  
*Women's Chavurah*, Susan Tubbesing

*Members wishing to contact any Va'ad member or committee chair are invited to obtain his or her number from the synagogue office.*

**Office Hours:** Monday–Friday from 9 am to 4 pm. Rabbi's office hours by appointment. Please call the synagogue office at (415) 861-6932.

**Emergency Number:** In an emergency, the Congregation can be contacted outside of office hours by calling 861-6938.

**Services** are held every Friday evening beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted), with an Oneg Shabbat following services. Services are generally held on the last Saturday of each month at 10:30 am—check calendar for each month.

**Gift Shop Hours:** Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm

**Library Hours:** Open during office hours, and 30 minutes before and after Friday night services.

**Member** of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimerling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organizations (Eric Cooper-Keitel, Liaison).

**Congregation Sha'ar Zahav** (Congregation of the Golden Gate) is located in the Upper Market District of San Francisco at 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block south of the intersection of 18th and Market streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

*Dr. Diane Sabin*

CHIROPRACTOR

281 Noe (at Market), San Francisco, CA 94114 415/252-5500



# Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

שַׁעַר זָהָב

220 DANVERS AT CASELLI, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94114

(415) 861-6932

MAY

ניסן-אייר

<b>1</b> Friday 28 Nisan • Shabbat Services, Scott Mezistrano, Aziza Khazzoom, sermon by Allan Gold	<b>9</b> Saturday 6 Iyar	<b>17</b> Sunday 14 Iyar • 3-5pm, Congregational Meeting	<b>25</b> Monday 22 Iyar • 6-7pm, Healing Service
<b>2</b> Saturday 29 Nisan • 9:45am, Parents meeting at 456 Hill St., San Francisco	<b>10</b> Sunday 7 Iyar	<b>18</b> Monday 15 Iyar • 6-7pm, Healing Service • 7:30pm, Education Committee meeting	<b>26</b> Tuesday 23 Iyar
<b>3</b> Sunday 30 Nisan	<b>11</b> Monday 8 Iyar • 6-7pm, Healing Service • 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting	<b>19</b> Tuesday 16 Iyar • 7:30pm, Newsletter proofing/layout, 1711 Castro	<b>27</b> Wednesday 24 Iyar
<b>4</b> Monday 1 Iyar • 6-7pm, Healing Service	<b>12</b> Tuesday 9 Iyar	<b>20</b> Wednesday 17 Iyar	<b>28</b> Thursday 25 Iyar • 6:30pm, Ritual Committee Meeting
<b>5</b> Tuesday 2 Iyar	<b>13</b> Wednesday 10 Iyar • 7:30pm, Newsletter editing, 1711 Castro	<b>21</b> Thursday 18 Iyar • 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim meeting	<b>29</b> Friday 26 Iyar • Shabbat Services, Henry Mach, Jonathan Comisar
<b>6</b> Wednesday 3 Iyar Yom Ha Atzmuat • Service at Temple Emanu-El	<b>14</b> Thursday 11 Iyar	<b>22</b> Friday 19 Iyar • 6:30pm, Women's Chavurah Shabbat Dinner • Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Ritual Committee	<b>30</b> Saturday 27 Iyar • Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn and Ritual Committee and special friends • Music service • 10:30am, Singles picnic and hike, Redwood Regional Park
<b>7</b> Thursday 4 Iyar • 7pm, Children's Education meeting	<b>15</b> Friday 12 Iyar • Shabbat Services, Ritual Committee • East Bay Services, Dana Vinicoff	<b>23</b> Saturday 20 Iyar	<b>31</b> Sunday 28 Iyar • Noon, Women's Chavurah picnic and hike, Marin Headlands Info Center parking lot
<b>8</b> Friday 5 Iyar • Shabbat Services, Rabbi Kahn, Lyssa Friedman, Gary Sokol	<b>16</b> Saturday 13 Iyar • Kadimah Family Service, Rebecca Weiner; Kadimah closing exercises and picnic	<b>24</b> Sunday 21 Iyar • 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch	<i>Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.</i>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

## Anniversaries

- 16 Ann Bauman & Kelly Theimann  
17 Lynn Bravewomon & Annie Kennedy

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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